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Dated: January 18, 2006 Signature:

Docket No.: 480062001800

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Scott W. SANDERS

Application No.: 10/727,287

Filed: December 3, 2003

For: PORT STEM MARKING FOR CATHETER

PLACEMENT

Confirmation No.: 4663

Art Unit: 3763

Examiner: A. S. Ahmed

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated September 22, 2005, for which a response was due on December 22, 2005. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 1 month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to January 22, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

oc-304041